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**June 30 2015**

ARTHUR BLOOSTON  
1914 – 1999

**WRITER'S CONTACT INFORMATION**

sta@bloostonlaw.com  
202-828-5562

**REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION**

*VIA HAND DELIVERY*

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Form 481 – Carrier Annual Reporting Data Collection, 2015  
WC Docket No. 14-58

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Pursuant to sections 54.313(i) and 54.422(c) of the Commission's Rules,<sup>1</sup> Custer Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (the Company) hereby submits a copy of its "FCC Form 481 – Carrier Annual Reporting Data Collection Form," as filed with the Universal Service Administrative Company. A copy is also being submitted to the appropriate state regulatory commission and tribal government, as further required by sections 54.313(i) and 54.422(c).

Pursuant to the Protective Order adopted by the Commission in this proceeding,<sup>2</sup> the Company requests confidential treatment for the financial information included in its report, as required by §54.313(f)(2), on the grounds that it is commercially sensitive information that is not normally released to the public. The Company also requests confidential treatment for its

<sup>1</sup> 47 CFR §§54.313 and 54.422.

<sup>2</sup> *In the Matter of Connect America Fund, et al.*, PROTECTIVE ORDER, WC Docket No. 10-90, et al., DA 15-712, released June 17, 2015.

Progress Report on the Five Year Service Quality Plan pursuant to sections 0.457 and 0.459 of the Commission's Rules. A letter in support of the Company's request is attached hereto.

In accordance with the Protective Order and the Commission's rules, two redacted copies and one non-redacted copy have been submitted on paper via hand delivery to the Secretary's Office, two non-redacted copies have been submitted for hand delivery to Mr. Charles Tyler of the Telecommunications Access Policy Division, and a redacted copy has also been filed via the Electronic Comment Filing System.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Salvatore Taillefer, Jr.', with a stylized, cursive script.

Salvatore Taillefer, Jr.

Counsel to Custer  
Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

CC:

Mr. Charles Tyler, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau

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Washington, DC 20554

RE: Form 481 – Carrier Annual Reporting Data Collection, 2015  
WC Docket No. 14-58

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Pursuant to §0.457 and §0.459 of the Commission's rules, Custer Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (the "Company"), by its attorneys, hereby requests that certain materials and information be withheld from public inspection. Specifically, the Company requests confidential treatment of the Progress Report on the Five Year Service Quality Improvement Plan (the "Plan" or "confidential information") attached to its Form 481 filing.

In support of its request for confidential treatment and pursuant to the requirements under § 0.459(b) of the Commission's rules, the Company states the following:

*1. Identification of the specific information for which confidential treatment is sought.*

The Company seeks confidential treatment of the Progress Report on the Five Year Service Quality Improvement Plan, attachment 472218ID112 to the Form 481 filing accompanying this letter, which contains sensitive financial information about the Company as well as information about the Company's projected network improvements and upgrades for voice and broadband services during the period from 2015 through 2019.

2. *Identification of the Commission proceeding in which the information was submitted or description of the circumstances giving rise to the submission.*

The documents are being submitted as part of the annual Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Report (Form 481) mandated by section 54.313 of the Commission's rules.

3. *Explanation of the degree to which the information is commercial or financial, or contains a trade secret or is privileged.*

The data described is highly confidential and sensitive commercial and financial information which constitutes trade secrets or sensitive commercial and financial information that "would customarily be guarded from competitors,"<sup>1</sup> and is therefore exempted from mandatory disclosure under FOIA Exemption 4 and Section 0.457(d) of the Commission's rules.<sup>2</sup>

4. *Explanation of the degree to which the information concerns a service that is subject to competition.*

The Plan relates to voice and broadband services provided by the Company that are subject to competition from competitive local exchange carriers, cable television system operators, electric power utilities, fixed and mobile wireless service providers, and/or satellite carriers.

5. *Explanation of how disclosure of the information could result in substantial competitive harm.*

Disclosure of the confidential information is likely to result in substantial competitive harm to the Company because the confidential information could provide competitors with commercially sensitive insights related to the Company's operations, service offerings, and costs.

6. *Identification of any measures taken by the submitting party to prevent unauthorized disclosure.*

The Company does not make the Progress Report on the Five Year Service Quality Improvement Plan or any of the information contained therein publically available in any way and further limits internal access to key employees subject to strict non-disclosure obligations.

7. *Identification of whether the information is available to the public and the extent of any previous disclosure of the information to third parties.*

The Company does not make the confidential information available to the public and it has not previously allowed disclosure of the confidential information to third parties that are not otherwise bound by confidentiality obligations.

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<sup>1</sup> *Id.* § 0.457(d)(2).

<sup>2</sup> 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4); 47 C.F.R. § 0.457(d).



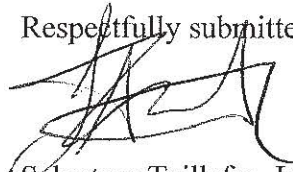
8. *Justification of the period during which the submitting party asserts that the material should not be available for public disclosure.*

The confidential information should be treated as confidential for an indefinite period, as the Company will always be subject to competition and the competitive harms associated with the disclosure of the confidential information.

In order to provide adequate protection from public disclosure, the Commission should strictly limit distribution of the confidential information within the Commission on a "need to know" basis and not allow any distribution outside of the Commission. In the event that any person or entity outside the Commission requests disclosure of the confidential information, the Company requests that it be so notified immediately so that it can oppose such request or take other action to safeguard its interests as it deems necessary.

Please direct any questions regarding this submission to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Salvatore Taillefer, Jr.', written over the typed name.

Salvatore Taillefer, Jr.

Counsel for

Custer Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

<b>FCC Form 481 - Carrier Annual Reporting</b> <b>Data Collection Form</b>	<b>FCC Form 481</b> OMB Control No. 3060-0086/OMB Control No. 3060-0619 July 2013
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<b>&lt;010&gt; Study Area Code</b>	472218
<b>&lt;015&gt; Study Area Name</b>	CUSTER TEL COOP
<b>&lt;020&gt; Program Year</b>	2015
<b>&lt;030&gt; Contact Name: Person USAC should contact with questions about this data</b>	Dennis Thorbeck
<b>&lt;035&gt; Contact Telephone Number: Number of the person identified in data line &lt;030&gt;</b>	2088792781 ext. 17
<b>&lt;039&gt; Contact Email Address: Email of the person identified in data line &lt;030&gt;</b>	dennis@custer.tel.net

<b>ANNUAL REPORTING FOR ALL CARRIERS</b>	54.313	54.422
	Completion Required	Completion Required

<b>&lt;100&gt; Service Quality Improvement Reporting</b> <i>(complete attached worksheet)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;200&gt; Outage Reporting (voice)</b> <i>(complete attached worksheet)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;210&gt;</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>check box if no outages to report</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;300&gt; Unfulfilled Service Requests (voice)</b> <input type="text" value="0"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;310&gt; Detail on Attempts (voice)</b> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div> <i>(attach descriptive document)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;320&gt; Unfulfilled Service Requests (broadband)</b> <input type="text" value="0"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;330&gt; Detail on Attempts (broadband)</b> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div> <i>(attach descriptive document)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;400&gt; Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers (voice)</b>			
<b>&lt;410&gt; Fixed</b> <input type="text" value="0.0"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;420&gt; Mobile</b> <input type="text" value="0.0"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;430&gt; Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers (broadband)</b>			
<b>&lt;440&gt; Fixed</b> <input type="text" value="0.0"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;450&gt; Mobile</b> <input type="text" value="0.0"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;500&gt; Service Quality Standards &amp; Consumer Protection Rules Compliance</b> <i>(check to indicate certification)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;510&gt;</b> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div> <i>(attach descriptive document)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;600&gt; Functionality in Emergency Situations</b> <i>(check to indicate certification)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;610&gt;</b> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div> <i>(attach descriptive document)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;700&gt; Company Price Offerings (voice)</b> <i>(complete attached worksheet)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;710&gt; Company Price Offerings (broadband)</b> <i>(complete attached worksheet)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;800&gt; Operating Companies and Affiliates</b> <i>(complete attached worksheet)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;900&gt; Tribal Land Offerings (Y/N)?</b> <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <i>(if yes, complete attached worksheet)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;1000&gt; Voice Services Rate Comparability Certification</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Yes</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;1010&gt;</b> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div> <i>(attach descriptive document)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;1100&gt; Certify whether terrestrial backhaul options exist (Yes or No)</b> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <i>(if not, check to indicate certification)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;1110&gt;</b> <i>(complete attached worksheet)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;1200&gt; Terms and Condition for Lifeline Customers</b> <i>(complete attached worksheet)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

**Price Cap Carriers, Proceed to Price Cap Additional Documentation Worksheet**

<b>&lt;2000&gt; Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers</b> <i>(check to indicate certification)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;2005&gt;</b> <i>(complete attached worksheet)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Rate of Return Carriers, Proceed to ROR Additional Documentation Worksheet</b>			
<b>&lt;3000&gt;</b> <i>(check to indicate certification)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;3005&gt;</b> <i>(complete attached worksheet)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

(100) Service Quality Improvement Reporting Data Collection Form		FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3050-0086/OMB Control No. 3050-0819 July 2013
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<010> Study Area Code	472218
<015> Study Area Name	CUSTER TBA COOP
<020> Program Year	2016
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Danield, Thornock
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	2088793291 ext. 17
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	daniel@castrova.net

<110> Has your company received its ETC certification from the FCC?	(yes / no) <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/>
If your answer to Line <110> is yes, do you have an existing § 54.202(a) "5 year plan" filed with the FCC?	
<111>	(yes / no) <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>

If your answer to Line <111> is yes, then you are required to file a progress report, on line <112> delineating the status of your company's existing § 54.202(a) "5 year plan" on file with the FCC, as it relates to your provision of voice telephony service.

<112> Attach Five-Year Service Quality Improvement Plan or, in subsequent years, your annual progress report filed pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a)(1). If your company is a CEYC which only receives frozen support, your progress report is only required to address voice telephony service.

Name of Attached Document

Please select the appropriate responses below (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 112, contains a progress report on its five-year service quality improvement plan pursuant to § 54.202(a). The information shall be submitted at the wire center level or census block as appropriate.

<113> Maps detailing progress towards meeting plan targets	Yes
<114> Report how much universal service (USF) support was received	Yes
<115> How much (USF) was used to improve service quality and how support was used to improve service quality	Yes
<116> How much (USF) was used to improve service coverage and how support was used to improve service coverage	Yes
<117> How much (USF) was used to improve service capacity and how support was used to improve service capacity	Yes
<118> Provide an explanation of network improvement targets not met in the prior calendar year.	Not Applicable

<Q1>	Study Area Code	472218
<Q1>	Study Area Name	CUSTER TBL COOP
<Q2>	Program Year	2016
<Q3>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Dennis Thacker
<Q3>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <Q3>	2068792261 ext. 17
<Q3>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <Q3>	dennis@custertbl.net

Page 3



<010>	Study Area Code	472219
<015>	Study Area Name	CHIEF TEL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Bonnie Thorneck
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	208792221 ext:17
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	bonnie.thorneck@etel.mn

c701b	Residential Local Service Charge Effective Date	1/1/2015
c702b	Single State-wide Residential Local Service Charge	

[illegible]





(900) Tribal Lands Reporting Data Collection Form		TCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010> Study Area Code	472218
<015> Study Area Name	CUSTER TRL CVCE
<020> Program Year	2016
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Donna Thorneick
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	208793231 ext. 17
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dthorneick@ccrri.net

<910> Tribal Land(s) on which ETC Serves

<920> Tribal Government Engagement Obligation

Name of Attached Document

If your company serves Tribal lands, please select (Yes, No, NA) for each these boxes to confirm the status described on the attached document(s), on line 920, demonstrates coordination with the Tribal government pursuant to § 54.313(a)(9) includes:

- <921> Needs assessment and deployment planning with a focus on Tribal community anchor institutions.
- <922> Feasibility and sustainability planning;
- <923> Marketing services in a culturally sensitive manner;
- <924> Compliance with Rights of way processes
- <925> Compliance with Land Use permitting requirements
- <926> Compliance with Facilities Siting rules
- <927> Compliance with Environmental Review processes
- <928> Compliance with Cultural Preservation review processes
- <929> Compliance with Tribal Business and Licensing requirements.

Select Yes or No or Not Applicable

<b>(1100) No Terrestrial Backhaul Reporting</b>		FCC Form 481
<b>Data Collection Form</b>		OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
		July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	472218
<015>	Study Area Name	CUSTER TEL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Dennis Thornock
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	2088792281 ext. 17
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dennis@custertel.net

<1120> Please confirm whether terrestrial backhaul options exist within the supported area pursuant to § 54.313(g) (Yes, No).

<1130> Please select the appropriate response (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to confirm the reporting carrier offers broadband service of at least 1 Mbps downstream and 256 kbps upstream within the supported area pursuant to § 54.313(g).



<b>(1200) Terms and Condition for Lifeline Customers</b>		FCC Form 481
<b>Lifeline</b>		OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
<b>Data Collection Form</b>		July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	47221
<015>	Study Area Name	CUSTER TEL 0002
<020>	Program Year	2014
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Dennis Thompson
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	2682752281 ext. 17
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dennis@custertel.net

472215701210.pdf
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<1210> Terms & Conditions Of Voice Telephony Lifeline Plans:

Name of Attached Document

<1220> Link to Public Website

HTTP <http://www.custertel.net/images/Lifeline.pdf>

"Please check these boxes below to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 1210, or the website listed, on line 1220, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.422(a)(2) annual reporting for ETCs receiving low-income support, carriers must annually report:

- <1221> Information describing the terms and conditions of any voice telephony service plans offered to Lifeline subscribers. ☒
- <1222> Details on the number of minutes provided as part of the plan. ☒
- <1223> Additional charges for toll calls, and rates for each such plan. ☒

1000 Price Cap Carrier Additional Documentation		FCC Form 481
Data Collection Form		OMB Control No. 3050-0086/OMB Control No. 3050-0019
Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers		July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	47-218
<015>	Study Area Name	CUMBER TEL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	DAVID M. TAYLOR
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	2087520000 ext. 13
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dtaylor@cumtel.net

Select the appropriate responses below (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to note compliance as a recipient of Incremental Connect America Phase I support, Frozen High Cost support, High Cost support to offset access charge reductions, and Connect America Phase II support as set forth in 47 CFR § 54.313(b),(c),(d),(e). The information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

Incremental Connect America Phase I reporting	
<2010>	2nd Year Certification (47 CFR § 54.313(b)(1))
<2011a>	3rd Year Certification (47 CFR § 54.313(b)(1))
<2011b>	Attachment (47 CFR § 54.313(b)(1))
Name of Attached Document(s) Listing Required Information	
Price Cap Carrier Receiving Frozen Support Certification (47 CFR § 54.312(a))	
<2012>	2013 Frozen Support Calculation (47 CFR § 54.313(c)(1))
<2013>	2014 Frozen Support Calculation (47 CFR § 54.313(c)(2))
<2014>	2015 Frozen Support Calculation (47 CFR § 54.313(c)(3))
<2015>	2016 and future Frozen Support Calculation (47 CFR § 54.313(c)(4))
Price Cap Carrier Connect America ICC Support (47 CFR § 54.313(d))	
<2016>	Certification Support Used to Build Broadband
Connect America Phase II Reporting (47 CFR § 54.313(e))	
<2017>	3rd year Broadband Service Certification
<2018>	5th year Broadband Service Certification
<2019>	Interim Progress Certification
<2020>	Please check the box to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 2021, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313 (e)(5)(ii), as a recipient of CAF Phase II support shall provide the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year.
<2021>	Interim Progress Community Anchor Institutions
Name of Attached Document(s) Listing Required Information	

<div> <div> (300X) Risk of Repeat Carrier Additional Documentation </div> <div> (CT Form 88) </div> </div>	
<div> <div> Data Call (Info) Form </div> <div> (Info Call) Form, 3000 05/04/08 (Current) 3000-05/03/10 </div> </div>	
<div> <div> July 2015 </div> </div>	
(1010) Study Area Code	472218
(1015) Study Area Name	CUSTER TRL COOP
(1020) Program Year	2016
(1025) Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Dennis Thierbeck
(1030) Contact Telephone Number - Telephone of person identified in data line (1025)	2086792281 ext. 17
(1035) Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line (1025)	dennis.thierbeck@montana.com
<p>CHECK the boxes below to note compliance on this five year carrier quality plan (pursuant to 47 CFR § 54.310(a)) and, for privately held carriers, ensuring compliance with the financial reporting requirements set forth in 47 CFR § 54.310(d). Further certify that the information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.</p>	
(1010) Progress Report on 3 Year Plan Milestone Certification (47 CFR § 54.313)(f)(4)(B))	<div>472218103010.pdf</div> <div>Name of Attached Document Listing Report of Information</div>
(1011) Please check this box to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 3012 contains this required information pursuant to § 54.313 (9)(i)(v). The carrier shall provide the names, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year.	<div>472218103012.pdf</div> <div>Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information</div> <div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> </div>
(1012) Community Anchor Institutions (47 CFR § 54.313)(9)(i)(v))	<div>472218103012.pdf</div> <div>Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information</div>
(1013) Is your company a Federally Held RUS Carrier (47 CFR § 54.313)(9)(ii))	<div>Yes/No</div> <div>88</div>
(1014) If yes, does your company file RUS annual reports	<div>Yes/No</div> <div>88</div>
<p>Please check these boxes to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 3017, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.310(d) compliance requires:</p>	
(1015) Electronic copy of their annual RUS reports (Operating Report for Telecommunications Network)	<div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></div>
(1016) Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows	<div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></div>
(1017) If the response is yes on line 3016, attach your company's RUS annual report and all required documentation	<div>472218103017.pdf</div> <div>Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information</div>
(1018) If the response is no on line 3016, is your company audited?	<div>Yes/No</div> <div>88</div>
<p>If the response is yes on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission, on line 3020 pursuant to § 54.310(d)(2), contains:</p>	
(1019) Either a copy of their audited financial statement or (2) a financial report in a format is reportable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications	<div><input type="checkbox"/></div>
(1020) Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows	<div><input type="checkbox"/></div>
(1021) Management letter and audit opinion issued by the independent certified public accountant that performed the company's financial audit	<div><input type="checkbox"/></div>
<p>If the response is no on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission, on line 3020 pursuant to § 54.310(d)(2), contains:</p>	
(1022) Copy of their financial statement which has been subject to review by an independent certified public accountant or (2) a financial report in a format is reportable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications	<div><input type="checkbox"/></div>
(1023) Underlying information subjected to a review by an independent certified public accountant	<div><input type="checkbox"/></div>
(1024) Underlying information subjected to an officer certification	<div><input type="checkbox"/></div>
(1025) Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows	<div><input type="checkbox"/></div>
(1026) Attach the worksheet listing required information	<div></div> <div>Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information</div>

(3000) Rate Of Return Carrier Additional Documentation (Continued)		FCC Form 451
Data Collection Form		OAS Control No. 8060-0766/OMB Control No. 3060-0818
		July 2013

<010> Study Area Code	472218
<015> Study Area Name	CUSTER TEL COOP
<020> Program Year	2012
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Dennis Thorpe
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	208792281 ext. 17
<035> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dennis@custercl.net

Financial Data Summary

(3027) Revenue  
 (3028) Operating Expenses  
 (3029) Net Income  
 (3030) Telephone Plant in Service (TPIS)  
 (3031) Total Assets  
 (3032) Total Debt  
 (3033) Total Equity  
 (3034) Dividends

[REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]

Certification - Reporting Carrier Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010> Study Area Code	472218
<015> Study Area Name	CUSTER TEL COOP
<020> Program Year	2016
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Dennis Thornock
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	2088792281 ext.17
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dennis@custertel.net

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF THE REPORTING CARRIER IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTING ON ITS OWN BEHALF:

<b>Certification of Officer as to the Accuracy of the Data Reported for the Annual Reporting for CAF or LI Recipients</b>	
I certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual reporting requirements for universal service support recipients; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported on this form and in any attachments is accurate.	
Name of Reporting Carrier: CUSTER TEL COOP	
Signature of Authorized Officer: CERTIFIED ONLINE	Date 06/29/2015
Printed name of Authorized Officer: Dennis Thornock	
Title or position of Authorized Officer: Chief Executive Officer	
Telephone number of Authorized Officer: 2088792281 ext.17	
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier: 472218	Filing Due Date for this form: 07/01/2015
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	



Certification - Agent / Carrier Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3050-0596/OMB Control No. 3060-0619 July 2013
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<010> Study Area Code	473218
<015> Study Area Name	COSTER TEL COOP
<020> Program Year	2016
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Dennis Thornock
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	2088792181 ext. 17
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dennis@costertel.net

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF AN AGENT IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE CARRIER'S BEHALF:

Certification of Officer to Authorize an Agent to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier	
I certify that (Name of Agent) _____ is authorized to submit the information reported on behalf of the reporting carrier. I also certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual data reporting requirements provided to the authorized agent; and, to the best of my knowledge, the reports and data provided to the authorized agent is accurate.	
Name of Authorized Agent: _____	
Name of Reporting Carrier: _____	
Signature of Authorized Officer: _____	Date: _____
Printed name of Authorized Officer: _____	
Title or position of Authorized Officer: _____	
Telephone number of Authorized Officer: _____	
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier: _____	Filing Due Date for this form: _____
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE AUTHORIZED AGENT:

Certification of Agent Authorized to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier	
I, as agent for the reporting carrier, certify that I am authorized to submit the annual reports for universal service support recipients on behalf of the reporting carrier; I have provided the data reported herein based on data provided by the reporting carrier; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported herein is accurate.	
Name of Reporting Carrier: _____	
Name of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent: _____	
Signature of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent: _____	Date: _____
Printed name of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent: _____	
Title or position of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent: _____	
Telephone number of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent: _____	
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier: _____	Filing Due Date for this form: _____
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

REDACTED - FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

### Attachments

REDACTED - FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

<010>	Study Area Code	472238
<015>	Study Area Name	CUSTER TEL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2015
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Dennis Thompson
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	26872330 ext.17
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dennis.thompson@telco.net
<701>	Residential Local Service Charge Effective Date	1/1/2015
<702>	Single State-wide Residential Local Service Charge	
<703>		

[illegible]

(730) Broadband Price Offerings Data Collection Form		ICC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0984/OMB Control No. 3060-0219 July 2013
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<010>	Study Area Code:	422216
<015>	Study Area Name	CUSTER TEL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Dennis Thacker
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	2065782181 ext. 27
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dennis@custertel.net

<010>	<015>	<016>	<017>	<018>	<019>	<020>	<021>	<022>	<023>
State	Exchange (HIC)	Residential Rate	State Regulated Fees	Total Rates and Fees	Broadband Service Download Speed (Mbps)	Broadband Service Upload Speed (Mbps)	Usage Allowance (GB)	Usage Allowance Action Taken When Limit Reached (select)	
ND	Challis	34.95	0.0	34.95	4.0	1.0	999999	Other, Unlimited data usage	
ND	Challis	59.95	0.0	59.95	4.0	1.0	999999	Other, Unlimited data usage	
ND	Challis	69.95	0.0	69.95	10.0	1.0	999999	Other, Unlimited data usage	
ND	Challis	39.95	0.0	39.95	5.0	5.0	999999	Other, Unlimited data usage	
ND	Challis	59.95	0.0	59.95	15.0	1.0	999999	Other, Unlimited data usage	
ND	Challis	119.95	0.0	119.95	10.0	10.0	999999	Other, Unlimited data usage	
ND	Challis	159.95	0.0	159.95	50.0	10.0	999999	Other, Unlimited data usage	
ND	Challis	279.95	0.0	279.95	100.0	10.0	999999	Other, Unlimited data usage	
ND	Clayton	34.95	0.0	34.95	4.0	1.0	999999	Other, Unlimited data usage	
ND	Clayton	59.95	0.0	59.95	4.0	1.0	999999	Other, Unlimited data usage	
ND	Clayton	69.95	0.0	69.95	10.0	1.0	999999	Other, Unlimited data usage	
ND	Clayton	89.95	0.0	89.95	5.0	5.0	999999	Other, Unlimited data usage	
ND	Clayton	99.95	0.0	99.95	10.0	1.0	999999	Other, Unlimited data usage	
ND	Clayton	149.95	0.0	149.95	10.0	10.0	999999	Other, Unlimited data usage	
ND	Clayton	199.95	0.0	199.95	50.0	10.0	999999	Other, Unlimited data usage	
ND	Clayton	279.95	0.0	279.95	100.0	10.0	999999	Other, Unlimited data usage	
ND	Elk Bend	34.95	0.0	34.95	4.0	1.0	999999	Other, Unlimited data usage	
ND	Elk Bend	59.95	0.0	59.95	4.0	1.0	999999	Other, Unlimited data usage	
ND	Elk Bend	69.95	0.0	69.95	10.0	1.0	999999	Other, Unlimited data usage	
ND	Elk Bend	89.95	0.0	89.95	5.0	5.0	999999	Other, Unlimited data usage	
ND	Elk Bend	99.95	0.0	99.95	10.0	1.0	999999	Other, Unlimited data usage	

<010>	Study Area Code	472228
<015>	Study Area Name	CUSTER TEL CDOP
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Wendy Thorbeck
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	2028792242 ext.17
<033>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	wendy@custatels.net

[illegible]



<010>	Study Area Code	472226
<015>	Study Area Name	CUSTER TEL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Dennis Thornock
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	2048792261 ext. 17
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dennis@custertel.com
<810>	Reporting Carrier	Custer Telephone Cooperative Inc
<811>	Holding Company	Not Applicable
<812>	Operating Company	Custer Telephone Cooperative Inc.

[illegible]

CUSTER TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.

LINE 112: PROGRESS REPORT

472218ID112

**REDACTED IN ENTIRETY**

### Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection

Custer Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("Custer") understands and complies with the Idaho Public Utilities Commission's *Telephone Customer Relations Rules*, IDAPA 31.41.01, adopted under the general legal authority of the Public Utilities Law, Chapters 1 through 7, Title 61, Idaho Code, and the Telecommunications Act of 1988, Chapter 6, Title 62, Idaho Code, with regards to service.

These telephone customer relations rules provide a set of fair, just, reasonable, and non-discriminatory rules regarding deposits, guarantees, billing, application for service, denial of service, termination of service, complaints to telephone companies, billing for interrupted service, and provisions of certain information about customer to authorities.

Custer implements the *Telephone Consumer Relation Rules* through the terms and conditions set forth in its tariff, and through its standard company operating procedures, which is readily available to the public at their Headquarters office.

Custer also complies with Customer Proprietary Network Information (CPNI) and Red Flag rules through established operating procedures. A description of Custer's CPNI procedures is filed annually with the FCC.

### Functionality in Emergency Situations

Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a) (6) and/or 47 C.F.R § 54.422(b) (4) as set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a) (2) Custer Telephone Cooperative, Inc. meets the requirements to remain functional in emergency situations and has the following capabilities: Back-up power is provided to Custer Telephone's central and or remote office(s) by use of fixed generator and batteries that provide it with 120 hours of emergency power service. In addition, Custer Telephone's field electronics have 8 hours of back-up power by use of fixed/mobile generators and batteries. Custer Telephone also has SONET technology in its network that allows for self-healing network should a fiber cut occur in its core network and will automatically reroute traffic. Custer Telephone also has two (2) redundant paths within its network to provide for the capability to reroute traffic. Custer Telephone has equipped its remote offices/and or field gear, with Emergency Stand Alone technology that will provide for call completion and access to 911 in emergency situations. Custer Telephone is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations.

Custer Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
2015 From 481  
472218ID1010

Voice Services Comparability Report

Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.313 (a) (10) Custer Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("Custer") is in compliance with the requirement that voice services is no more than two standard deviations above the national average urban rate for voice service of \$47.48 as specified in Public Notice DA 15-470 issued on April 16, 2015. Custer's current total local end-user rate<sup>1</sup> for all wire centers of \$16.16 (which includes a local fee of \$16.00, mandated state fees of \$.16 and mandatory extended area service charges of \$0) is not above the standard deviation as specified in the USF/ICC Transformation Order.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Local End User Rate as defined in USF/ICC Transformation Order 26 FCC Rcd at 17751, Para. 238

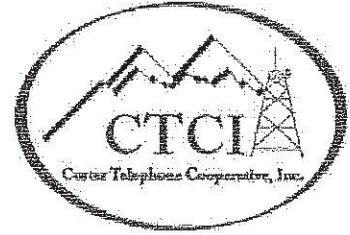
<sup>2</sup> USF/ICC Transformation Order, 26 FCC Rcd at 17694, Para. 84 (footnote included) "The standard deviation is a measure of dispersion. The sample standard deviation is the square root of the sample variance. The sample variance is calculated as the sum of the squared deviations of the individual observations in the sample of data from the sample average divided by the total number of observations in the sample minus one. In a normal distribution, about 68 percent of the observations lie within one standard deviation above and below the average and about 95 percent of the observations lie within two standard deviations above and below the average."



## **Lifeline**

### **What Is The Telephone Assistance Program?**

Financial assistance is available in Idaho to help qualified low-income individuals pay for telephone service. The Idaho Telephone Service Assistance Program (ITSAP) offers a \$2.50 discount on monthly telephone bills. A separate program – the Federal Communication Commission's Life line program (Lifeline) offers a monthly discount of \$9.25. ITSAP provides a communication "lifeline" to those who might not otherwise be able to afford telephone service. It also enhances the value of service for everyone by increasing the number of people who can be reach by telephone. A small surcharge is applied to every Idaho telephone line each month to reimburse local telephone companies for the cost of state discounts under ITSAP. The surcharge is Waived for customers receiving the ITSAP discount. The Idaho Public Utilities Commission (IPUC) Reviews the surcharge annually and may increase or decrease the surcharge.



### **Who Is Eligible?**

Any residential customer who meets program-based or income-based eligibility criteria. To find out if you are eligible contact the Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership.

### **The assistance provides the following discounts:**

#### **Landline:**

- Idaho Telephone Service Assistance Credit - \$2.50
- Lifeline FCC End User Charger Credit - \$6.50
- Federal Lifeline Credit - \$2.75

### **How Do I Apply For Assistance?**

In order to receive benefits, you must apply for these programs with the Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership (EICAP) office. Website link and local address is listed below. EICAP will work with you and Custer Telephone to recertify you for the program each year; failure to recertify will terminate your eligibility for program benefits.

- Apply at the Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership office.
- If you are eligible, your name and telephone number will be forwarded to Custer Telephone or your local service provider if different than Custer Telephone.
- The monthly discount will begin by your next billing period if your name and number match the telephone company's records.

### **Do I Need To Apply Every Year?**

Yes. Your eligibility must be renewed each year.

If you have questions regarding ITSAP, please contact Custer Telephone or the Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership.

Lifeline is a government assistance program; the service is non-transferable, only eligible consumers may enroll in the program, and the program is limited to one discount per household.

Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership  
955 Riverfront Drive  
Suite A  
Salmon, ID 83467  
208.756.3999  
<http://www.eicap.org/>

### Lifeline Service Terms

Custer Telephone Cooperative, Inc. is a quality telecommunications service provider who provides basic and enhanced services at reasonable rates within its service territory. Basic Residential service is offered at the following rate:

	Monthly Rates Charges	One-Time Non-Recurring
Single Party Residence Service	\$16.00	\$18.00

The following fees apply in addition to the above monthly rates:

• End User Common Line	\$6.50
• Idaho Telephone Service Assistance Program (ITSAP)	\$0.01
• Idaho Universal Service Fund (ID USF)	\$0.16
• Custer County 911 Fee	\$1.25
• Federal Excise Tax	\$0.76
• Federal Universal Service Fund	\$1.13
• Residential Access Recovery Charge	\$1.50
• FUSC- Residential ARC	\$0.26

Single Party Residential Service Total	\$27.57
Federal Lifeline Credit	(\$9.25)
Idaho Telephone Assistance Program Credit	(\$2.50)

Single Party Universal Life Line Service Monthly Rate*	\$15.72	\$18.00
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\*Discounted basic service rates and free Toll-Blocking are available to those that qualify for Universal Life Line Service.

The above rates include the following:

- Local Calling
- Touch Tone Capability
- Access to Operator Services
- Directory Assistance and Inter-Change Service Providers
- Voice Grade Access to the Public Switched Network
- Free Access to 800 and 800-like Toll Free Services
- One Free Directory Listing
- Free Access to a Business Office and Free Access to the Idaho Relay Service by Dialing 711

**Emergency 911 Service**.....Surcharge for 911 services  
are assessed according to  
Government assessments

**Long Distance is not included.**

Long Distance rate is ten cents (\$0.10) per minute

Custer Telephone Cooperative, Inc offers basic services to all customers in the following exchanges:  
838-Clayton / 879-Challis / 876-May / 894-Elk Bend

For additional detail on any of these services, please contact our business office at 208.879.2281 or toll-free 866.879.2281.

472218|D3010

CERTIFICATION OF Custer Tel. Cooperative under 47 CFR 54.313(f)(1)(i)

Custer Telephone Cooperative, Inc. certifies that it is taking reasonable steps to provide upon reasonable request broadband service at actual speeds of at least 4 Mbps downstream/1Mbps upstream, with latency suitable for real-time applications, including Voice over Internet Protocol, and usage capacity that is reasonably comparable to comparable offerings in urban areas as determined in an annual survey, and that requests for such service are met within a reasonable amount of time.

472218ID3012

Community Anchor Institutions

Custer Telephone Cooperative, Inc. did not begin providing service to any Community Anchor Institutions in the previous calendar year (2014)

CUSTER TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.

LINE 3017: RUS REPORTS

472218ID3017

**REDACTED IN ENTIRETY**